

Top Japanese politician linked to Spence

Press 'watchdogs' forgot to bark

By David Braaten
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Craig J. Spence — lobbyist, party-giver, late-night White House tour director and patron of homosexual call-boy services — was accepted uncritically by most of the Washington media establishment during his years of influence peddling.

Evidently beguiled by his lavish hospitality and perhaps his background as a television reporter who had covered the Vietnam War, reporters who might have been expected to know better treated Mr. Spence with a cordiality that sometimes bordered on adulation.

In a city where bringing down the high and mighty can be the ticket to a Pulitzer Prize, it apparently occurred to no one to question Mr. Spence's free-spending operations — or the propriety of sharing in his largesse. The media watchdogs were no more suspicious of the mysterious Mr. Spence than were the celebrities he so successfully cultivated.

His press clippings must make embarrassing reading today for some of the famous personalities who befriended him — and the reporters who lionized him.

Mr. Spence's first ink was the work of veteran gossip columnist

Maxine Cheshire, and it was a veritable paean of fruity, overblown prose.

"Not since Ethel Kennedy used to give her famous Hickory Hill seminars for great minds of our times during the days of Camelot has anyone staged seminars successfully on a continuing social basis in Washington," she gushed in the Los Angeles Times on May 12, 1980. "That's what Craig Spence has been doing."

The star of Mr. Spence's black-tie dinner that set off the Cheshire tribute was none other than Eric Sevareid, described as "an old friend and colleague." The bash at

see SPENCE, page A8



Craig J. Spence, in his former residence on Wyoming Avenue NW during the times of his greatest influence among the rich, famous and powerful.

Considered LDP choice for premier

By Michael Hedges
and Jerry Seper
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

A Japanese politician considered an inside favorite to succeed Prime Minister Souda has been embroiled in a highly questionable real estate deal with the Washington lobbyist linked to a Washington homosexual prostitution ring under investigation by U.S. authorities, The Washington Times has learned.

The real estate in question — a two-story, Victorian showpiece in the fashionable Kalorama neighborhood, valued last year by Realtors at \$1.15 million — was planted with electronic bugs by lobbyist Craig J. Spence and used for blackmail purposes, according to homosexual call boys and others who routinely visited the house on Wyoming Avenue NW.

Mr. Spence has told several current and former friends that he obtained the money to buy the house by blackmailing Motoo Shiina, a leading Liberal Democratic Party mem-

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Tokyo's trade chief urges party to quit

FROM COMBINED DISPATCHES

TOKYO — Minister of International Trade and Industry Seiroku Kajiyama said yesterday Japan's beleaguered Liberal Democratic Party should relinquish power to the opposition.

"Speaking not as a minister but as a mere lawmaker, I think it's better to transfer power to the opposition for once," Mr. Kajiyama told reporters amid growing opposition demands for the ruling party to step down.

The conservative LDP, which has ruled the country uninterrupted for more than three decades, suffered a serious setback in Tokyo municipal elections Sunday.

Most political analysts expect it to lose strength in the July 23 upper house election because of the unpopular national sales tax the party forced through the national Diet in April. The Recruit insider-trading and bribery scandal that led to the resignation last month of Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and the

"woman problem" that has dogged his successor Souda ever since.

Opposition parties say the LDP has lost popular support and that the lower house should be dissolved for a general election.

As if the scandal-plagued party didn't have enough troubles, the mass-circulation Mainichi Shimbun reported yesterday that six top LDP politicians, including former Prime

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Soviets welcomed in Paris, except in headlines

By Andrew Borowiec
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

PARIS — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, greeted by headlines citing a troubled economy and ethnic tension at home, arrived here yesterday on his latest foray into the West. He immediately plunged into a busy schedule that was expected to focus on expansion of economic ties between Paris and Moscow.

His main objective, according to Soviet officials, is to create "a bridge between Europe and Asia" and to strengthen the construction of a "common European home" — Mr.

Soviet parliament ousts a deputy prime minister. Story on Page A7.

Gorbachev's standard formulation for economic and political cooperation.

At a state dinner last night, the Soviet leader pressed his campaign to clear Europe of short-range nuclear weapons.

Failure to make progress on the reduction and eventual elimination of short-range nuclear forces (SNF) in Europe, he warned his French hosts, could become a "serious hindrance" to the disarmament process.

If the first day of his visit was an indication, the French seem inclined to follow other European countries — notably West Germany — in joining Mr. Gorbachev's efforts.

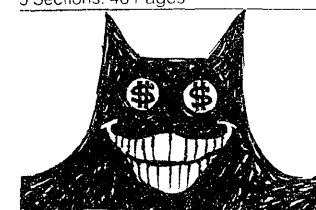
Nine accords, ranging from telecommunications to cooperation in space, were signed yesterday.

"There is a new climate in Franco-

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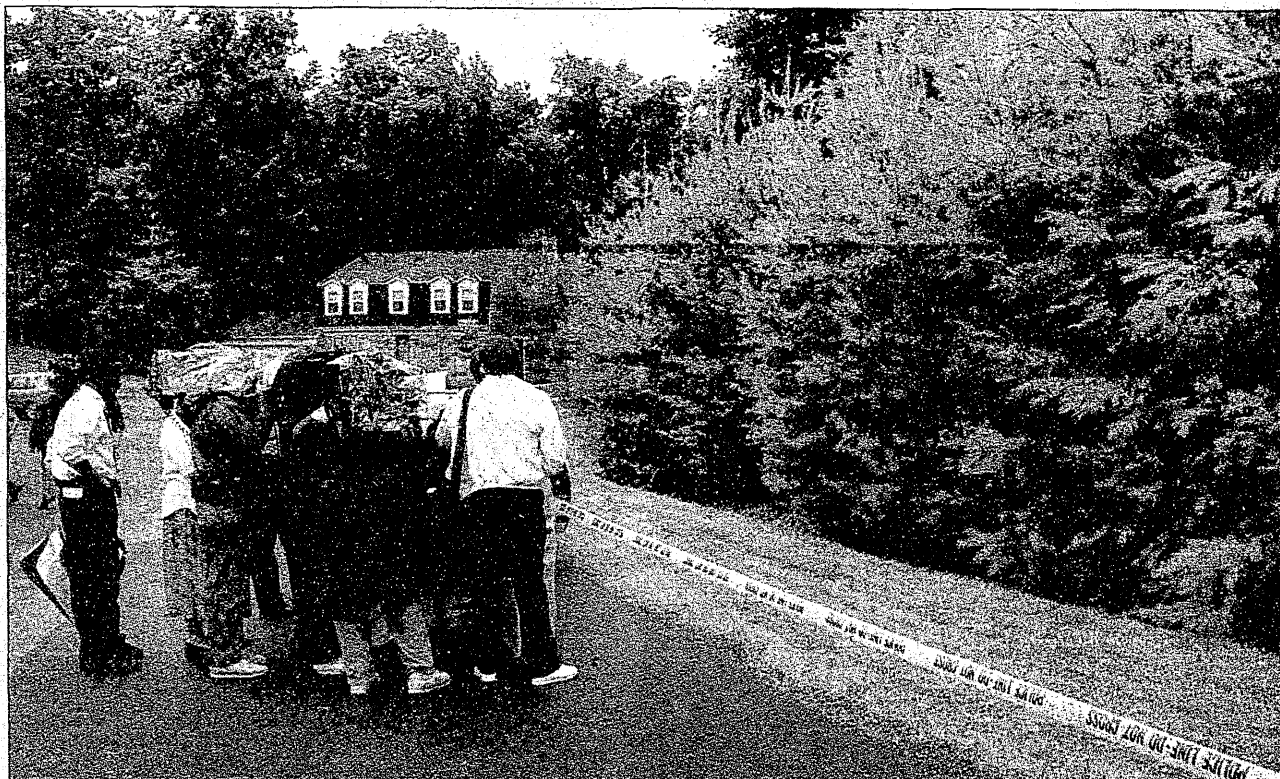
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DEATH ALONG A QUIET ROAD



Onlookers and media gather on Bentonbrook Drive in the Brecon Ridge Woods section of Fairfax County where girl's body was found in trees at right.

Lake Braddock girl, 10, found dead

By Jonathan Higuera
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

A 10-year-old Fairfax County girl who disappeared Sunday night was found dead yesterday about seven miles from her Lake Braddock home.

Fairfax County police immediately called the death of Rhiannon "Rosie" Gordon a homicide, pending an autopsy by the state medical examiner, but declined to say if there were any injuries visible on the fully clothed body.

"There are no obvious signs that would explain the death," police spokesman Bill Coulter said, adding that there are no suspects in the case.

Discovery of the youngster's body shocked the tightly knit Lake Braddock community and crushed friends and family, who were hoping the girl simply had run away for a while, as she had threatened to do.

"I was hoping it wouldn't end this way," John Donati said sadly. He is an 11-year area resident who searched on foot Sunday night and Monday and began distributing pictures of the girl yesterday.

The youngster's grandmother, Geraldine Gordon, added that she knew in her heart the child had not voluntarily disappeared, even though investigators briefly were operating on the theory that she had.

"I would have loved for that to be true, but I knew she wouldn't do it," said Ms. Gordon, who drove to the family's Lake Braddock town house Monday from Troy, N.Y., after she



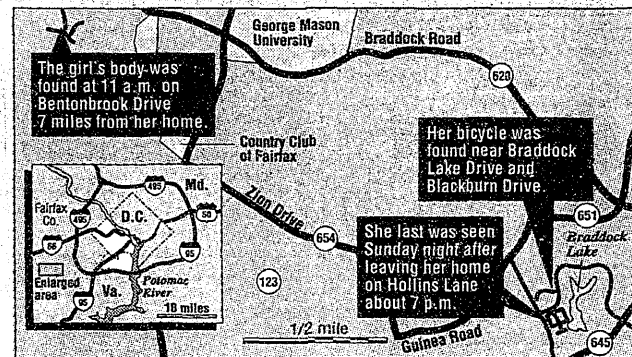
learned her granddaughter had disappeared.

The child's body was discovered by a teen-ager about 11 a.m. yesterday in a grove of pine trees about 10 feet off Bentonbrook Drive in the Brecon Ridge Woods subdivision about seven miles from her home.

Fairfax County police said the body was clearly visible, leading them to believe the girl hadn't been there long.

But officers declined to speculate as to whether the body had been moved to the location, or whether the youngster had died where she was found, a posh neighborhood outside Fairfax City at least seven miles from where she disappeared.

Yesterday morning, about two



School photo of Rhiannon "Rosie" Gordon whose body was found miles from her home near Braddock Lake almost two days after she was listed missing.

dozen Fairfax County officers combed the neighborhood, talking to neighbors and closely examining the thicket of pine trees where the body was found.

Rosie last was seen about 7 p.m. Sunday as she biked away from her best friend's house a short distance from her own home. Her father found her bike, with the kickstand down, along Lake Braddock Road later that night.

She had gone to see the movie "Batman" that day with her father, friends and family said. The two also went swimming at the nearby Ashbourn Community Pool, where "they were having a good time playing tag and stuff," said one of Rosie's friends who was at the pool.

Yesterday, the pool was empty.

"I don't think anyone really feels like swimming," said Matt Hand, the pool manager.

Rosie, after leaving the pool about 4:30 p.m. Sunday, rode her bike around Lake Braddock with her best friend, Amy Culotti, 12. Rosie then left the Culotti home about 7 p.m. to go home for dinner.

Amy walked her friend to the corner of Lake Braddock Road and Blackburn Drive and watched her ride away, presumably to her own home less than four blocks away.

Rosie's uncle, Don Gordon, who lives with the family, told police he passed her on his way home and went into the house and told Rosie's mother she was on her way home.

see GIRL, page A6

Cardinal suspends Stallings over new church

By Larry Witham
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The Rev. George A. Stallings Jr., the black Washington priest who launched a renegade Catholic church Sunday, was suspended yesterday by Cardinal James A. Hickey, head of the Washington Archdiocese.

The suspension came in the wake of repeated warnings from Cardinal Hickey to Father Stallings to abandon the idea of starting an independent church.

"After a careful review of the appropriate norms in canon law and after extensive consultation, I hereby suspend you from your priestly duties, including preaching, the celebration of Mass and the administration of the sacraments," Cardinal Hickey said in a letter to Father Stallings dated Monday.

Cardinal Hickey stopped short of threatening Father Stallings with excommunication, the most severe punishment within the Catholic Church.

Father Stallings, a priest here for 15 years, has said repeatedly that he launched his church because of institutional racism within the Catholic Church.

About 1,700 people attended his church's first service Sunday at the Howard University Law School chapel. Most of the worshippers were members of the predominantly black St. Teresa of Avila parish in Southeast Washington, where Father Stallings was pastor from 1976 until mid-1988.

At that service, Father Stallings announced he would provide the traditional Catholic sacraments of baptism, marriage and confession.

He also announced plans to build a 6,000-seat church, using funds collected from Sunday services to be held in temporary headquarters at Suitland High School in the next few months.

The cardinal, in his letter, said the suspension would remain in effect until Father Stallings closes his breakaway church, the Imani Temple African-American Congregation.

Cardinal Hickey was unavailable for comment yesterday, but his spokesman, the Rev. William Lori, said the suspension had a twofold purpose: to let the public know that Father Stallings' priestly duties are invalid in the eyes of the church and to "prompt Father Stallings to reconsider what he is doing."

Father Lori did not say how the archdiocese will deal with Catholics attending Father Stallings' services. At Sunday's service, however, some of the black parishioners vowed to stand by him, agreeing with him that racism within the Catholic Church is a problem.

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